

Applicant: Fehlbeg et al.  
Application No.: 10/689,574  
Response to Office action dated Aug. 1, 2006  
Response filed November 1, 2006

### **Claim Listing**

1. (currently amended) A wearable load supporting system comprising:  
a rigid back plate for attachment to a user's back, the back plate having an upper segment  
and a lower segment which extends downwardly and rearwardly from the upper  
segment;  
a waist belt which is positioned frontwardly of the back plate lower segment;  
a rigid waist plate fixed to the waist belt;  
a cushion mounted to the waist belt frontwardly of the of the waist plate;  
portions of the rigid back plate lower segment which define a frontwardly facing first  
friction load transfer surface; and  
portions of the rigid waist plate which define a rearwardly facing second friction load  
transfer surface, the second friction load transfer surface being releasably engaged  
with the first friction load transfer surface, such that sliding motion between the  
back plate and the waist plate ~~[[are]]~~ is restricted by the friction load transfer  
surfaces, without restricting the pulling away of the back plate from the waist  
plate in a direction generally perpendicular to the engaged friction load transfer  
surfaces.
2. (original) The wearable load supporting system of claim 1 further comprising a  
pack releasably connected to the back plate upper segment.
3. (original) The wearable load supporting system of claim 2 wherein the back plate  
is fastened to a shell having shoulder straps extending frontwardly from the back plate, and  
further comprising a plurality of straps which extend between the pack and the shell.

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4. (currently amended) The wearable load supporting system of claim 1 wherein the first friction load transfer surface and the second friction load transfer surfaces are defined by sections formed of a material selected from the group consisting of artificial rubber, natural rubber, and urethane, ~~and highly textured mechanical structure material~~.

5. (original) The wearable load supporting system of claim 1 wherein an angle is defined between the back plate upper segment and the back plate lower segment which is less than 180 degrees and more than 90 degrees.

6. (cancelled)

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7. (currently amended) A load supporting system for wearing by a user having a back and a waist, the system comprising:

a shell having shoulder straps;

a rigid back plate connected to the rear of the shell, the back plate having an upper segment extending downwardly and positioned rearwardly of the user's back, and a lower segment which extends downwardly from the the back plate upper segment to be rearward of the user's waist;

a waist belt for positioning about the user's waist;

a rigid waist plate fixed to the waist belt rearwardly of the user's waist and in a position to face the lower segment of the back plate;

portions of the back plate lower segment which define a frontwardly facing first friction load transfer surface; and

portions of the waist plate which define a rearwardly facing second friction load transfer surface, the second friction load transfer surface being releasably engaged with the first friction load transfer surface, such that sliding motion between the back plate and the waist plate ~~[[are]]~~ is restricted by the friction load transfer surfaces, without substantially restricting the pulling away of the back plate from the waist plate in a direction generally perpendicular to the engaged friction load transfer surfaces.

8. (original) The wearable load supporting system of claim 7 further comprising a pack releasably connected to the back plate upper segment.

9. (original) The wearable load supporting system of claim 8 further comprising a plurality of straps which extend between the pack and the shell.

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10. (original) The wearable load supporting system of claim 7 wherein the first friction load transfer surface and the second friction load transfer surfaces are defined by sections formed of a material selected from the group consisting of artificial rubber, natural rubber, urethane, and highly textured mechanical structure material.

11. (original) The wearable load supporting system of claim 7 wherein an angle is defined between the back plate upper segment and the back plate lower segment which is less than 180 degrees and more than 90 degrees.

12. (cancelled)

13. (new) The wearable load supporting system of claim 1 wherein the first friction load transfer surface and the second friction load transfer surfaces are defined by sections formed of a material selected from the group consisting of:

rubber from which automobile tires are made;

a viscoelastic material;

GREPTILE™ material formerly manufactured by 3M of Minnesota;

a material having highly textured mechanical structure formed thereon which causes two

sheets of the formed material to resist shear, but to have substantially no

resistance to being peeled apart or pulled apart;

a material formed with microscopic projecting fingers; and

a material formed with small pyramids which mate with one another.

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14. (new) The wearable load supporting system of claim 7 wherein the friction load transfer surfaces are defined by sections formed of a material selected from the group consisting of:

rubber from which automobile tires are made;

a viscoelastic material;

GREPTILE™ material formerly manufactured by 3M of Minnesota;

a material having highly textured mechanical structure formed thereon which causes two sheets of the formed material to resist shear, but to have substantially no resistance to being peeled apart or pulled apart;

a material formed with microscopic projecting fingers; and

a material formed with small pyramids which mate with one another.